Guidelines for uplinking foreign news Channels

2093. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether for second time this year Government have revised the guidelines for satellite uplinking for news channels with foreign investment/ participation;

(b) if so, whether Government, in consultation with the Ministries of law and Justice and Finance are working out a structure which offer level-paying fields to all the television channels *vis-a-vis* tax structuring;

(c) if so, to what extent this brings uplinking policy on par with the print media;

(d) whether these guidelines have been fully approved by the Group of Ministers appointed for the purpose; and

(e) if so, by when the new guidelines would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Guidelines for uplinking of foreign news channels from India, issued on 26.3.2003, have been revised with the approval of the competent authority on 28.8.2003. The revised eligibility criteria require, inter-alia, that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the applicant company shall not exceed 26% of the paid-up Equity; permission will be granted only in cases where equity held by the largest Indian shareholder is at least 51%of the total equity; at least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors and all key Executives and Editorial Staff shall be resident Indians; the representation on the Board shall as far as possible be proportionate to the shareholding; and CEO of the applicant company and/or Head of the channel shall be a resident Indian.

Funds for film Industry

2094. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to set up venture capital funds to address the financing needs of the Indian film industry;